

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 19, 2001 LB 197

background, I would point out the substantive changes contained in Sections 1 through 4. Section 1 of the bill amends 2-3002 to expand the definition of poultry to include the ratite species, ostriches, emus, rheas, and so forth, and to otherwise rewrite the definition of poultry in closer conformity with NPIP. Their inclusion would authorize the Department of Agriculture to determine disease management standards for these species. It would also include these animals within the provisions of 2-3004, which requires poultry to originate from a flock participating in NPIP programs to be sold and imported into the state. The bill also specifically grants the Department of Agriculture quarantine authority and authority to inspect records as tools for enforcing the Poultry Disease Control Act. These changes, including the expanded enforcement authority, are endorsed by the Nebraska Poultry Improvement Association. Section 5 through 22 amends provisions of the Nebraska Livestock Auction Act found at Sections 54-1156 through 54-1185. The act governs the establishment and operation of livestock auction markets. The act is administered by a three-member Livestock Auction Market board, consisting of the Director of Agriculture, the State Veterinarian, and one livestock auction market owner or operator. The board is responsible for reviewing applications for new auction market licenses for ability to meet standards of performance, and for administering disciplinary actions for violation of the act. The act also provides for the appointment of veterinarians as agents of the state to perform health inspections of livestock sold at auction markets. Finally, the act coordinates with the Nebraska brand inspection law to facilitate brand inspection at markets within the brand area, and those requesting brand inspection outside of the brand area. The name of the Livestock Auction Act is changed to the Livestock Auction Market Act. This had been the original name of this act. The word "Market" had been dropped in the past to avoid confusion with the Livestock Market Act, which is outright repealed in this bill. The bill also amends definitions section by adding a definition for accredited veterinarian and designated veterinarian. The definition for accredited veterinarian refers to those accredited under federal regulations for certifying veterinarians for purposes of writing health certificates for animals across state lines. Designated veterinarians are those accredited veterinarians assigned by the